

Age-Specific Sensory & Communication Supplement - Training Manual

COLORADO LONG-TERM SERVICES AND SUPPORTS
(LTSS) ASSESSMENT TOOL



COLORADO

Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing

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Age-Specific Sensory & Communication Supplement – Training

Purpose

The purpose of the Age-Specific Sensory & Communication Supplement of the Assessment tool is to capture focused information about the participant’s functioning and communication based on his/her age and allow assessors and parents/guardians to document and discuss potential sensory issues and next steps.

Overview of Contents

This module is divided into six age-specific sections. Assessors will **only** need to complete the section that corresponds with the participant’s chronological age. These items replace the majority of Section 3 in the Sensory and Communication module for participants age 0-12.

Each section contains two items:

- The first item includes tasks, scenarios, and other sensory/processing tasks phrased as response options that should be checked if the scenario applies to the participant.
- The second item is used to identify whether any of the checked responses are expected to last for more than one year.

The first item contains targeted responses based on the participant’s chronological age. Assessors should check all that apply.

General Instructions for Completing the Module

This module is intended to provide information in addition to the information captured within the Sensory and Communication module. Assessors should work with the participant/parent/guardian to respond to the items and note any areas that may be problematic.

Younger participants may demonstrate certain symptoms but parents and medical professionals may not recognize them as a sensory processing disorder (SPD). Assessors should not attempt to diagnosis an SPD, but should document signs, symptoms, and interventions and, if necessary, provide a referral for further testing.

In completing this module, the assessor should use a variety of information sources, including interviews with the participant or others, observation, and record review (e.g., medical records, professional assessments, etc.).

Section Instructions

Section instructions provide specific discussion and guidance for each section and items in the module. In the tables below, the assessment item is identified in the left column. Guidance specific to the item is then written in the right column.

Section 1: Age 0-6 Months

Section 1 should be used only with participants age 0-6 months old. It contains sensory and communication tasks and scenarios specific to the participant's age.

Assessment Item	Guidance
Section 1: Age 0-6 Months	
<p>1. Select all that apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Does not startle, jump, or blink to sudden, loud, unexpected sounds <input type="checkbox"/> Does not make any vocal sounds (includes crying) <input type="checkbox"/> Other concerns that may affect the amount of support the child needs: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above apply 	<p>Assessors may read the response options out loud, have an open discussion around sensory, communication, and cognition issues, and/or check items based on previous discussion.</p> <p>Check all situations that apply to the participant. If "other", briefly describe the concern related to sensory and communication.</p> <p>If "None of the above apply" is selected, the Supplement is complete. Continue to Section 4 of the Sensory and Communication module.</p>
<p>2. Is at least one of the communication functional impairments expected to last for at least one year from the date of assessment?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No 	<p>Identify whether the issues/checked in item 1 are expected to last for at least one year.</p>

Section 2: Age 7-12 Months

Section 2 should be used only with participants age 7-12 months old. It contains sensory and communication tasks and scenarios specific to the participant's age.

Assessment Item	Guidance
Section 2: Age 7-12 Months	
<p>1. Select all that apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Does not react to changes in tone of voice <input type="checkbox"/> Does not make any vocal sounds (includes crying) <input type="checkbox"/> Does not express him/herself through vocal, visual, or gesture exchange <input type="checkbox"/> Other concerns that may affect the amount of support the child needs: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above apply 	<p>Assessors may read the response options out loud, have an open discussion around sensory and cognition issues, and/or check items based on previous discussion.</p> <p>Check all situations that apply to the participant. If "other", briefly describe the concern related to sensory and communication.</p>
<p>2. Is at least one of the communication functional impairments expected to</p>	<p>Identify whether the issues/checked in item 1 are expected to last for at least one year.</p>

Assessment Item	Guidance
Section 2: Age 7-12 Months	
last for at least one year from the date of assessment? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	

Section 3: Age 13-18 Months

Section 3 should be used only with participants age 13-18 months old. It contains sensory and communication tasks and scenarios specific to the participant's age.

Assessment Item	Guidance
Section 3: Age 13-18 Months	
1. Select all that apply: <input type="checkbox"/> Does not react to changes in tone of voice <input type="checkbox"/> Does not respond to simple requests (e.g., no, stop, come here, give me, look) <input type="checkbox"/> Does not express him/herself through vocal, visual, or gesture exchange <input type="checkbox"/> Does not jabber or babble as if they are trying to say something <input type="checkbox"/> Other concerns that may affect the amount of support the child needs: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above apply	<p>Assessors may read the response options out loud, have an open discussion around sensory and cognition issues, and/or check items based on previous discussion.</p> <p>Check all situations that apply to the participant. If "other", briefly describe the concern related to sensory and communication.</p>
2. Is at least one of the communication functional impairments expected to last for at least one year from the date of assessment? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<p>Identify whether the issues/checked in item 1 are expected to last for at least one year.</p>

Section 4: Age 19-24 Months

Section 4 should be used only with participants age 19-24 months old. It contains sensory and communication tasks and scenarios specific to the participant's age.

Assessment Item	Guidance
Section 4: Age 19-24 Months	
<p>1. Select all that apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Does not respond to simple requests (e.g., no, stop, come here, give me, look) <input type="checkbox"/> Does not point to or look at familiar objects or people when asked <input type="checkbox"/> Does not use more than 10 meaningful words or word approximations <input type="checkbox"/> Does not imitate environmental sounds through any means <input type="checkbox"/> Other concerns that may affect the amount of support the child needs: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above apply 	<p>Assessors may read the response options out loud, have an open discussion around sensory and cognition issues, and/or check items based on previous discussion.</p> <p>Check all situations that apply to the participant. If "other", briefly describe the concern related to sensory and communication.</p>
<p>2. Is at least one of the communication functional impairments expected to last for at least one year from the date of assessment?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No 	<p>Identify whether the issues/checked in item 1 are expected to last for at least one year.</p>

Section 5: Age 25-36 Months

Section 5 should be used only with participants age 25-36 months old. It contains sensory and communication tasks and scenarios specific to the participant's age.

Assessment Item	Guidance
Section 5: Age 25-36 Months	
<p>1. Select all that apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Does not follow two-step instructions that are related and are not routine <input type="checkbox"/> Does not point to or look at 3 familiar objects or people when asked <input type="checkbox"/> Does not use more than 10 meaningful words or word approximations <input type="checkbox"/> Does not join familiar words into phrases (e.g., "me drink", "red truck", "baby cry", "no juice") 	<p>Assessors may read the response options out loud, have an open discussion around sensory and cognition issues, and/or check items based on previous discussion.</p> <p>Check all situations that apply to the participant. If "other", briefly describe the concern related to sensory and communication.</p>

Assessment Item	Guidance
Section 5: Age 25-36 Months	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other concerns that may affect the amount of support the child needs: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above apply	
2. Is at least one of the communication functional impairments expected to last for at least one year from the date of assessment? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	Identify whether the issues/checked in item 1 are expected to last for at least one year.

Section 6: Age 37-47 Months

Section 6 should be used only with participants age 37-47 months old. It contains sensory and communication tasks and scenarios specific to the participant's age.

Assessment Item	Guidance
Section 6: Age 37-47 Months	
1. Select all that apply: <input type="checkbox"/> Does not follow two-step instructions that are related and are not routine <input type="checkbox"/> Does not understand any preposition in unfamiliar single step instructions (e.g., in, on, under) <input type="checkbox"/> Does not use at least 50 words <input type="checkbox"/> Does not use "mine" to indicate possession <input type="checkbox"/> Other concerns that may affect the amount of support the child needs: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above apply	<p>Assessors may read the response options out loud, have an open discussion around sensory and cognition issues, and/or check items based on previous discussion.</p> <p>Check all situations that apply to the participant. If "other", briefly describe the concern related to sensory and communication.</p>
2. Is at least one of the communication functional impairments expected to last for at least one year from the date of assessment? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	Identify whether the issues/checked in item 1 are expected to last for at least one year.

Section 7: Age 4 to 5 Years (48-71 months)

Section 7 should be used only with participants age 4-5 years old. It contains sensory and communication tasks and scenarios specific to the participant's age.

Assessment Item	Guidance
Section 7: Age 4 to 5 Years	
<p>1. Select all that apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Does not follow two-step instructions that are related and are not routine <input type="checkbox"/> Does not understand at least 3 prepositions in unfamiliar single step instructions (e.g., in, on, under) <input type="checkbox"/> Does not ask for objects by naming them <input type="checkbox"/> Does not combine 3 or more words into a meaningful sentence <input type="checkbox"/> Other concerns that may affect the amount of support the child needs: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above apply 	<p>Assessors may read the response options out loud, have an open discussion around sensory and cognition issues, and/or check items based on previous discussion.</p> <p>Check all situations that apply to the participant. If "other", briefly describe the concern related to sensory and communication.</p>
<p>2. Is at least one of the communication functional impairments expected to last for at least one year from the date of assessment?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No 	<p>Identify whether the issues/checked in item 1 are expected to last for at least one year.</p>

Section 8: Age 6 to 11 Years

Section 8 should be used only with participants age 6-11 years old. It contains sensory and communication tasks and scenarios specific to the participant's age.

Assessment Item	Guidance
Section 8: Age 6 to 8 Years	
<p>1. Select all that apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Does not follow 3-step instructions that are related and are not routine <input type="checkbox"/> Does not follow 2 single-step instructions given at the same time that are unrelated and are not routine <input type="checkbox"/> Does not use language to share information other than basic needs or wants <input type="checkbox"/> Is not understood by familiar people that have infrequent contact with the child <input type="checkbox"/> Does not combine 6 or more words into a meaningful sentence 	<p>Assessors may read the response options out loud, have an open discussion around sensory and cognition issues, and/or check items based on previous discussion.</p> <p>Check all situations that apply to the participant. If "other", briefly describe the concern related to sensory and communication.</p>

Assessment Item	Guidance
Section 8: Age 6 to 8 Years	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other concerns that may affect the amount of support the child needs: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above apply	
2. Is at least one of the communication functional impairments expected to last for at least one year from the date of assessment? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	Identify whether the issues/checked in item 1 are expected to last for at least one year.

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